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Nicholas A. de Transehe Dies; Expert on Soviet Served C. I. A.

Special to The New York Times.

SUMMIT, N. J., Dec. 28 — Nicholas Alexander de Transehe, an Arctic explorer and retired expert on Russian affairs for the Central Intelligence Agency, died here yesterday at Overlook Hospital after a brief illness. He was 74 years old.

Mr. de Transehe, who lived at 32 East Fifty-eighth Street, New York, and in Dresden, Me., was a former commander of the Imperial Russian Navy. He was instrumental in persuading Czar Nicholas II to acquire Russia's first submarine from Simon Lake, the American inventor.

Arriving in this country in 1923, Mr. de Transehe served as an Arctic expert for the American Geographic Society for five years, during which he and Bernt Balchen charted the course for Admiral Richard E. Byrd's first trans-Polar flight.

From 1928 to 1934 he served as vice president and chief engineer of the De Bothezat Impeller Company, now a division of the American Machine and Metals Company. He invented and developed co-axial and bifurcator fans used for ventilation aboard ships and for transportation of corrosive gases in the chemical industry.

During World War II, Mr. de Transehe was a chief electrical engineer for the Army Transport Service here. Shortly after the war ended, he joined the C. I. A. in Washington as an expert on Russian affairs and served abroad on a number of missions. When he retired in 1956 he was awarded the Medal of Merit.

Born in Vladivostok, Mr. de Transehe attended the Imperial Russian Naval Academy and, after his graduation, served in



Nicholas A. de Transehe

the Russo-Japanese War. He also attended the War College at Kronstad, where he specialized in communications and submarine torpedo design. He received three decorations from the Russian Government, two for services during World War I.

From 1911 to 1915 he commanded the Russian icebreaker Tamir on two Arctic expeditions. His party discovered several islands, one of which was named for him. From 1915 until the overthrow of the Czar and the immobilization of the Imperial Navy he commanded a cruiser in the Baltic Fleet.

Mr. de Transehe leaves a daughter, Mrs. Charles R. Skinner Jr. of Summit, and two granddaughters.